

In the Office Action, the Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 to one of the following inventions: (I) claims 1-10; and (II) claims 11-16. This requirement is respectively traversed.

Regardless of the different classifications and fields of search mentioned by the Examiner (which are, in any event, not in fact greatly different as between Inventions I and II), there is a degree of common subject matter between the two inventions identified in the Office Action. For example, the method of claims 11-16 can be used to manufacture the device of claims 1-10.

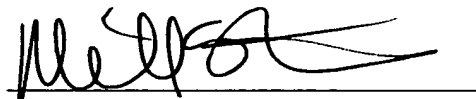
Because of the related subject matter, the Applicants believe that it will not be a serious burden on the Examiner to search and examine all of the claims. Under MPEP §803, "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner *must* examine it on the merits, *even though* it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). In the Applicants' view, that is exactly the situation in the present case.

Should the Examiner disagree with the Applicants' position in this matter, the Applicants provisionally elect Invention I (claims 1-10) for further prosecution in this application.

Early and favorable action on the merits is thus respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 530-7372.

Respectfully submitted,

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